

## MEETING OF

### THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, November 12, 2008, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Austin Short, Acting Secretary of Agriculture
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Kevin Coyle (representing John Hughes, Secretary of DNREC)
G. Ray Staats	Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.
Joseph Wick	

Absent: State Treasurer Jack Markell, L. Allen Messick, Jr., and Lyn Davenport.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Cathy Mesick, Scott Blaier, Robin West and Danielle Klosowski.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Esq., and Ms. Ellen Magee.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. with a discussion of the death of Mr. Phil Tuthill who was a regular attendee of our meetings. A moment of silence for the passing of Mr. Phil Tuthill was given and prayer at the start of the meeting.

#### I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 979 farms in preservation districts totaling 147,046 acres, with a total of 505 farms under agricultural easements totaling 88,221 acres at a cost of \$149,870,152. For PDR 14 there are a total of 145 farms comprising 13,950 acres with a value of \$149,250,000. For PDR 15 there are a total of 10 farms, comprising 612 acres, with a value of \$10,068,000. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 28 Areas comprising 2,265 acres. For PDR 14 for Forestland Preservation there is a total of 22 Areas, comprising 2,131 acres.

#### II. Expansion eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Luff Expansion of the Virdin-Scuse District, ID#K-08-08-101D. After discussion, **Joseph Wick moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Luff Expansion of the Virdin-Scuse District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Donovan Farm Expansion of the Passmore-Unruh District, ID#N-08-04-012F. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Donovan Farm Expansion of the Passmore-Unruh District, seconded by Joseph Wick. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Bennett Expansion #1 of the O'Neal Preservation District, ID#S-08-09-069C. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Bennett Expansion #1 of the O'Neal Preservation District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
4. Bennett Expansion #2 of the O'Neal Preservation District, ID#S-08-09-069D. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Bennett Expansion #2 of the O'Neal Preservation District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
5. Bennett Expansion #3 of the O'Neal Preservation District, ID#S-08-09-069E. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Bennett Expansion #3 of the O'Neal Preservation District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
6. Otwell Expansion of the Chipman Farms District, ID#S-08-09-080G. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Otwell Expansion of the Chipman Farms District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Acting Secretary Austin Short waived his right of veto for the above expansions.**

- III. Public Comments – Mr. Michael McGrath recognized Mr. Phil Tuthill's contribution to farmland preservation. Discussion centered on a donation to Mr. Tuthill's favorite charities.

Ms. Ellen Magee spoke about the Wilson Farm. The Magees want to lease the farm from the Foundation. They want to do a U-pick strawberry and pumpkin operation. They would like to start in the fall of '09. Michael Parkowski will need to look into the current lease. The Wilson farm will be presented at the December meeting.

- IV. Minutes:  
1. Chairman Garey asked if there were additions or corrections to the October 8, 2008 minutes. Receiving no additions or corrections to the minutes, **William Vanderwende moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Ray Staats. Motion unanimously approved.**

- V. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Summary for the months of August and September, 2008.

Howard informed the Foundation Board that we had, as of October 31, 2008, \$202,859.34 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. We received \$431.51 revenue from rollback taxes and \$524.00 interest income. Expenditures for the month of October totaled \$73,467.49. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved the October Financial Report be approved as presented, seconded by Joseph Wick. Motion unanimously approved.**

Michael McGrath presented the estimated budget for FY'09 and FY'10. Mr. McGrath explained the changes to the budget now that everything is being done through the State of Delaware system.

- VI. Executive Session

Chairman Garey asked if an Executive Session was necessary. Michael Parkowski indicated it was necessary, **William Vanderwende moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Joseph Wick. Motion unanimously approved.** The Executive Session started at 9:20 a.m. At 9:55 a.m. the Executive Session ended.

- VII. Other Business.

1. Foundation Guidelines.

Michael Parkowski presented the changes to the farmland and forestland easement acquisition guidelines. McGrath explained several items in the new guidelines. After discussion, **Joseph Wick moved to accept the guidelines, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

- VIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on December 10, 2008 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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William Vanderwende  
Vice Chairman